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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/724,606	11/28/2000	Dexter A. Burleigh	06558/007002	7648

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Patricia A. Meier
Conoco Phillips Company
204 PLB, Highway 60 & 123
Bartlesville,, OK 74004

EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2163

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
09/724,606	11/28/2000	2163	1330	06558/007002	18	40	4

Patricia A. Meier
 Conoco Phillips Company
 204 PLB, Highway 60 & 123
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CONFIRMATION NO. 7648
CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT
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Date Mailed: 12/28/2005

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).**

Applicant(s)

Dexter A. Burleigh, Houston, TX;
 Dominique Berta, Houston, TX;
 Jerry C. Phillips, Houston, TX;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number **22511**.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This appln claims benefit of 60/235,539 09/26/2000

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 03/28/2001

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US09/724,606**

Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Information management system

Preliminary Class

709

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

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Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/724,606

Applicant(s)

BURLEIGH ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B. Thai

Art Unit

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 8/25/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed August 25, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Office Action (12/2/04), the Examiner indicated that the claims 1-27 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 1 12, 2nd paragraph, set forth in previous Office action and further clarify the update function based on the specification at page 21, line 21 to page 22, line 22 and page 29, line 20 to page 31, line 10.

Applicant had not clarified update function of the claims based on the indicated specification. Therefore, Examiner maintains that the combination system of Cwenar and Armitage still teach the claimed features as rejected in the Office Actions.

Applicant argues, "the Examiner has cited nothing in the cited references, alone or in combination, suggesting or teaching the invention of claim 1." (Response 8/25/05, pages 18-21).

In response to applicant's argument, to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

"Test of obviousness is not whether features of secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into primary reference's structure, nor whether claimed invention is expressly

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suggested in any one or all of references; rather, test is what combined teachings of references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in art."

In re Keller, Terry, and Davies, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

"Reason, suggestion, or motivation to combine two or more prior art references in single invention may come from references themselves, from knowledge of those skilled in art that certain references or disclosures in references are known to be of interest in particular field, or from nature of problem to be solved;" Pro-Mold and Tool Co. v. Great Lakes Plastics Inc. U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit 37 USPQ2d 1626 Decided February 7, 1996 Nos. 95-1171, -1181

"[q]uestion is whether there is something in prior art as whole to suggest desirability, and thus obviousness, of making combination." Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company et al. U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit 221 USPQ 481 Decided Mar. 21, 1984 No 83-1178.

Cwenar reference teaches a system for receiving, processing, creating, storing, updating and disseminating investment information that multiple users access the server including portfolio management in real-time (see abstract and col.2, lines 41-56, Cwenar), but not limited to the investment information, the system is used with mutual fund portfolio management and transaction information (abstract and col.3, lines 56-64, Cwenar). Furthermore, the type of data being stored and updated in the database does not affect the storing, retrieving, or updating steps commonly used by database management systems. Therefore, Cwenar teach a system of creating, storing, updating and sharing data in real time by multiple users and a plurality of different programs (abstract; summary; col.4, lines 4-29, col.5, lines 57-60 and col.6, lines 36-44, Cwenar).

In the related art, Armitage teaches a system and method for translating seismic data including the productivity of hydrocarbon exploration data information in databases (Armitage,

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col.4, lines 2-14 and col.5, lines 7-22) and the data of Armitage's system collected from the different programs (Armitage, col. 3, lines 13-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Cwenar's information management system with Armitage's hydrocarbon-producing data or any kind of data. One would have been motivated to use this type of system with hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data in order to maintain an up-to-date database for this area.

Examiner maintains that the combination teaching of Cwenar and Armitage still reads on the limitations of claims 1, 15 and 21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 15-27 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) of record in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589) of record.

Regarding claims 1 and 21-22, Cwenar discloses at (FIG. 4) an information management system, comprising:

- a data repository (101, Fig.4, Cwenar) storing portfolio data tied to a key parameter field (FIG. 6; col. 7, lines 21-27 and col. 13, lines 19-60, Cwenar); and

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- at least one application server (100) adapted to provide a plurality of applications (column 6, lines 36-39) to a plurality of users (126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138 and 140), the at least one application server (100) operatively coupled to the data repository (101), each of the applications adapted to generate at least some data having the key parameter field, the at least one application server (101) adapted to retrieve and update (column 5, lines 47-54 and column 6, lines 10-14, Cwenar) selected ones of the related data when ones of the applications use and generate application data having the key parameter field (see column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 3 and lines 24-25; abstract and FIG. 6 of Cwenar), the management system further updating data relating to a property in real time environment based on input from multiple users using different programs for different tasks (abstract; summary; col.2, lines 41-56; col.4, lines 4-29, col.5, lines 57-60 and col.6, lines 36-44 , Cwenar).

Cwenar, however, does not disclose that the data in the database pertains to related hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data, the steps above could be used with databases storing any kind of data, to include hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data. Furthermore, the type of data being stored and updated in the databases does not affect the storing, retrieving, or updating steps commonly used by database management systems. Armitage, on the other hand, discloses system for evaluating seismic sequence lithology and property with predicting potential hydrocarbon reservoir and hydrocarbon data (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 5, lines 7-14 and col.7, lines 44-46, Armitage). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Cwenar's information management system with Armitage's

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hydrocarbon-producing data or any kind of data. One would have been motivated to use this type of system with hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data in order to maintain an up-to-date database for this area.

Regarding claim 2, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses the system wherein the data repository is adapted to store all data generated by each of the applications (see col.8, lines 46-50, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 3, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses the system wherein the data repository comprises a plurality of databases each adapted to store data from a respective one of the plurality of applications (see col.14, lines 11-16, Cwenar).

Regarding claims 4 and 24, Cwenar/Armitage combination discloses that the related data are relevant to a hydrocarbon-producing portfolio (see col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 5, lines 7-14 and col.7, lines 44-46, Armitage).

Regarding claim 5, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses the system wherein the plurality of applications comprises at least one selected from the group of a database management application, a portfolio management application, and a portfolio forecast application (see col.7, lines 7-20, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 6, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses at (Fig. 1 and Fig. 6) that the database management application comprises a front-end user interface (2, Fig. 1) operatively coupled to the data repository (4, Fig.1) and adapted to generate at least some data having the key parameter field when ones of the plurality of users enter data into the front-end user interface (Fig. 6, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 7, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses the system at (FIG. 1 of Cwenar) wherein the front-end user interface (2) comprises a plurality of different application modules each directed to specific ones of the plurality of users (elements 22, 24, 26 and 28, Cwenar).

Regarding claims 15 and 19-20, Cwenar discloses a management system (FIG. 4) for a hydrocarbon-producing portfolio, comprising:

- at least one server (100, Fig.4, Cwenar) adapted to serve a plurality of applications (column 6, line39) to respective users (126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138 and 140), each of the applications adapted to generate data corresponding to the respective user, at least some of the data generated by each application having a key parameter field (101, FIG. 4 and FIG. 6; col. 7, lines 21-27 and col. 13, lines 19-39, Cwenar) therein;
- a database management system (101, Fig.4, Cwenar) operatively coupled to the at least one server (100, Fig.4, Cwenar) and adapted to store at least some of the data generated by each application and update any of the stored data having the key parameter field when ones of the applications modify any of the stored data having the key parameter field (see column 6; line 66 to column 7, line 3 and lines 24-25; abstract and FIG. 6 of Cwenar);
- the at least one server adapted to serve the updated data to any other ones of the applications when the other ones of the applications retrieves the updated data having the key parameter field (column 5, lines 50-52; column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 3 and lines 24-25). The at least one business process model application adapted to automatically update the modeled data when any ones of the selected ones of the

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stored data are updated by operation of any of the other applications (see col.5, lines 47-54 and col.6, lines 10-14, Cwenar).

Cwenar, however, does not disclose the related hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data. Armitage, on the other hand, discloses system for evaluating seismic sequence lithology and property with predicting potential hydrocarbon reservoir and hydrocarbon data (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 5, lines 7-14 and col.7, lines 44-46, Armitage). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Cwenar's information management system with Armitage's hydrocarbon-producing data or any kind of data. One would have been motivated to use this type of system with hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data in order to maintain an up-to-date database for this area.

Regarding claims 16-18 and 26-27, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses that the business process model comprises creating an optimized drilling schedule (col.11, lines 48-58, Armitage).

Regarding claim 23, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses that a parent application comprising a plurality of application modules, each of the application modules directed to at least one of the respective users (see col.7, lines 57-64, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 25, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses that applying at least one business process model to selected ones of the stored data to generate modeled data; and automatically updating the modeled data when selected ones of the stored data are updated by operation of any one of the served applications (see col.5, lines 47-54 and col.6, lines 10-14, Cwenar).

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Regarding claim 41, Cwenar/Armitage combination further discloses the application server provides data generated by one of the plurality of different applications as input to another of the plurality of different applications (col. 3, lines 13-40, the data of Armitage's system collected from the different programs).

3. Claims 8-10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) or record in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589) or record and further view of Dembo (U. S. Patent no. 5,148,365).

Regarding claim 8, Cwenar/Armitage combination discloses all claimed limitations as discussed above, except a resources optimization program adapted to use the related data retrieved from the data repository to generate an optimized allocation of resources based on at least one selected criterion. Dembo, however, discloses generating an optimized allocation of resources (see FIG. 1 and column 1, lines 33-35 and 39-45, Dembo). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar/Armitage to include the claimed feature as taught by Dembo. The motivation of doing so would have been to use the system of Cwenar for optimally allocating available resources in portfolio management system (col.1, 4-7, Demo).

Regarding claim 9, Cwenar/Armitage/Dembo combination further discloses the system wherein the selected criterion comprises at least one selected from the group of developing most profitable assets first, achieving a selected net cash flow, achieving a selected earnings, achieving a selected level of production, satisfying obligations on time, and developing assets to achieve the greatest net cash flow in a selected amount of time for a selected amount of capital (see FIG. 5a-d and col.1, lines 43-49, Dembo).

Regarding claim 10, Cwenar/Armitage/Dembo combination further discloses the system wherein the applications server is adapted to automatically update selected ones of the related data when the resource optimization program generates optimized allocation of resources data (see col.8, lines 27-37, Dembo).

Regarding claim 11, Cwenar/Armitage/Dembo combination discloses the forecast application couple to predict future performance of assets (see col.8, line26 to col.9, line 4 and col. 10, lines 10-17, Dembo). Therefore, the combination system discloses the portfolio forecast application is adapted to forecast future performance of assets based on the related data.

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589) and further in view of O'Shaughnessy (U. S. Patent no. 6,484,151).

Regarding claim 12, Cwenar/Armitage combination discloses all of the claimed limitation as discussed above, except "the automatically notification at least one user when related data relevant to the at least one user has been updated in the data repository". O'Shaughnessy, however, discloses automatically notifying the user when related data has been updated (Summary of O'Shaughnessy). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar/Armitage to include the claimed feature as taught by O'Shaughnessy. The motivation of doing so would have been to transmit the updated information to the users immediately.

5. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589) and further view of Lu et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,373,489).

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Regarding claims 13-14, Cwenar/Armitage combination discloses all of the claimed limitation as discussed above, except the members of an asset development team having different functions related to the development and management of assets in the portfolio, each member responsible for providing particular related data corresponding thereto. Lu, however, discloses different functions related to the development and management of assets (col. 1, lines 14-21, Lu). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar/Armitage to include the claimed feature as taught by Lu to provide various specialists having different functions related to the management of assets. The motivation of doing so would have been to enhance the management system.

6. Claim 28-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bentley et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,341,291) of record in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589) of record.

Regarding claim 28, Bentley discloses a method for managing a portfolio, comprising:

having a plurality of asset team members each using an application related to a function of the respective asset team member to generate data; the asset team members (see col. 5, lines 44-63, Bentley) comprising engineers (see col. 5, lines 44-50 and col. 6, lines 60-64, Bentley) and administrator (see col. 23, lines 29-36, Bentley); and automatically updating related data (see col. 9, lines 31-45, Bentley discloses a system for collaborative engineering having a plurality of asset team members each using a variety of tools or programs for collaborative projects).

Bentley, however, does not disclose that the related hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data. Armitage, on the other hand, discloses system for evaluating seismic sequence lithology and property with predicting potential hydrocarbon reservoir and hydrocarbon data in databases (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 5, lines 7-14 and col.7, lines 44-46, Armitage). Therefore, it would have

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been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Cwenar's information management system with Armitage's hydrocarbon-producing data or any kind of data. One would have been motivated to use this type of system with hydrocarbon-producing portfolio data in order to maintain an up-to-date database for this area.

Regarding claim 29, Bentley/Armitage combination discloses a seismic interpretation application and a petroleum land management application and a drilling engineering application, and a portfolio optimization application (see col. 4, lines 57-66 and col. 5, lines 7-14; Fig. 3 and Fig. 20, Armitage).

Regarding claims 30 and 35, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one business process model to select ones of the corresponding data to generate modeled data (see col. 19, lines 58-62, Lu and col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 5, lines 7-14 and col. 7, lines 44-46, Armitage).

Regarding claim 31, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one business process model comprises determining an optimized drilling schedule (see col. 7, lines 42-44 and col. 11, lines 48-58, Armitage).

Regarding claim 32, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one selected from product price forecasts and production predictions (see col. 6, lines 62-67, Armitage).

Regarding claim 33, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one selected from developing most profitable assets first, achieving a selected net cash flow, achieving a selected earnings, achieving a selected level of production, satisfying obligations on

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time, and developing assets to achieve the greatest net cash flow in a selected amount of time for a selected amount of capital (see col. 4, lines 1-14, Armitage).

Regarding claim 34, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one business process model comprises forecasting hydrocarbon production (see Fig. 3 and col. 2, lines 61-67, Armitage).

Regarding claim 36, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that at least one business process model comprises determining drilling costs associated with at least one prospectively drilled well (see col.3, lines 1-7, Armitage).

Regarding claim 37, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that the hydrocarbon-producing portfolio comprises existing and prospective well locations, petroleum land management information related to the existing and an prospective well locations, capital equipment disposed in the existing wells, capital equipment proposed for existing and prospective wells, and estimated hydrocarbon reserves in reservoirs penetrated by the existing and prospective wells (see col.7, lines 42-44, Armitage).

Regarding claims 38-40, Bentley/Armitage combination further discloses that the notifying at least one of the asset team members that corresponding data used by the one of the applications used by the at least one asset team member have been updated by operation of the other one of the applications used by at least one other asset team member (see col. 9, lines 31-45, Bentley).

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

November 25, 2005


UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER